

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 30, 2006

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Local, State and National Legislators Arrive in North Brookfield **With \$1.3 Million Check**

N. Brookfield, MA –The North Brookfield Sewer Department received visits from Congressman Richard Neal, State Senator Stephen Brewer, State Representative Anne Gobi and State Director for USDA Rural Development, David Tuttle this morning. The local, state and federal officials did not come empty handed. In fact, the four arrived with a check worth \$1.3 million in USDA loan and grant funds which will be used to make improvements to the towns' sewer system.

In a special town meeting on May, 5, North Brookfield voters unanimously approved borrowing \$900,000 from USDA Rural Development for the sewer repair project. The remainder of the project costs will be covered by a \$400,000 grant from the agency.

North Brookfield's current sewer collection system dates back to the early twentieth century with no significant improvements made to the system since then. Although the system has been well maintained, studies have shown that it has a significant source of infiltration and inflow (I/I). Based on recent flow monitoring, the estimated infiltration rate is as high as 5,800 gallons per day per inch diameter mile. This is 1,800 gallons more than the State suggests is cost effective to remove. This excessive infiltration and inflow is taking up capacity at North Brookfield's Water Treatment facility and it is estimated that over half of the wastewater entering the plant is actually infiltration and inflow.

The sewer rehabilitation project will begin with the highest priority sewer lines and manholes in the Little Canada section of North Brookfield.

"This funding will allow the town to move forward with these essential repairs to its infrastructure," said Senator Brewer, "The town has been diligent in its upkeep of the current system and the rehabilitation project is a sound investment in its future ability to handle wastewater. I commend the town and USDA Rural Development on their joint efforts to secure these monies."

"This project is an excellent example of the partnerships that are necessary to provide the residents of North Brookfield with environmentally sound waste water treatment for a healthier community, said Representative Anne Gobi.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans. USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. In Fiscal Year 2005, USDA Rural Development provided over \$58.5 million in assistance to Massachusetts' rural communities and families.

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